

Mont. 16-12-17

Ridout House  
Martinsburg Vicinity  
Private

1930's

This two story frame house consists of a principal block of four rooms down and four up with one story sun porches" on either gable end. It is the replacement of an earlier log house that was probably built when these black landowners acquired the property in 1867.

## MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

Mont.: 16-12-17

Magi #

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Charles Ridout House

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

South Side of WHITE'S FERRY RD.

CITY, TOWN

Martinsburg

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

8

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Montgomery

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

## CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☐ BUILDING(S)☒ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

## OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

## PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

## STATUS

☐ OCCUPIED☒ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

## ACCESSIBLE

☒ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO

## PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☐ COMMERCIAL☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ GOVERNMENT☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ MILITARY☐ MUSEUM☐ PARK☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ RELIGIOUS☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ TRANSPORTATION☒ OTHER:

BRANDYDUSE

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Stone Bros., Inc.

Telephone #:

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Quince Orchard Shopping Center

CITY, TOWN

Gaithersburg

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 20670

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Montgomery County Court House

Liber #: 3657

Folio #: 682

STREET &amp; NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

None

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION**

M 16-12-17

**CONDITION**

☐ EXCELLENT  
☐ GOOD  
☐ FAIR

☒ DETERIORATED  
☐ RUINS  
☐ UNEXPOSED

**CHECK ONE**

☐ UNALTERED  
☒ ALTERED

**CHECK ONE**

☒ ORIGINAL SITE  
☐ MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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**DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE**

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This two story frame house is now abandoned, its interior has been vandalized, and the entire site overgrown with vines and bushes. The result is a house that is in ruinous condition, one that will soon, no doubt, be demolished. In earlier days it was a handsome dwelling, and was significantly different from the other homes of Black landowners in the Martinsburg community.

The house stands a short distance from the White's Ferry Road on the south side. It faces north, and the line of its gable roof runs east-west. The principal block is a two story frame section with a facade of three bays: a door centrally located with two windows flanking it, the typical arrangement for the surviving houses in Martinsburg of the late 19th century Black landowners. Unlike the other houses, however, this one was two rooms deep. Across the front had been added a shed porch supported with square posts. It is in the midst of collapse.

Two rooms, whose design indicate they were built as "sun porches" were added to each gable end. One was placed on the northeast side; its east wall held three large single sash windows, each with eight wide panes. Its north wall held two windows, each with a single sash containing three small panes vertically aligned. The other "sun porch" was placed on the southwest side and it was illuminated by double French doors in the walls, each containing six panes in one door. There was one set of doors in the south wall, three in the west wall, and two in the north wall. These features are highly unusual in rural houses of Black families and in fact have not been found in any other houses of Black families surveyed in southern Maryland or in Montgomery County. They were added in the second quarter of the 20th century most likely, perhaps in order to convert this dwelling to a summer house.

The interior consists of four rooms downstairs in the principal block. They are illuminated by windows with double hung sashes with two over two lights, like the other turn of the century houses of Martinsburg. A boxed stairway ascends the south wall of the east front room. The west front room was warmed by a stove, since there was a brick stove flue ascending the exterior of the west wall. Another stove flue ascended along the partition between the two back rooms with openings for stove pipes for each room. Around the flue in the west back room was a plain mantle supported by chamfered posts. The walls were covered with several layers of colorful wall paper. These features suggest that this room may have been the parlor, since the front rooms are simply painted light blue and lack comparable decorative qualities.

The frame of commercially sawn timbers is attached with wire nails. The exterior is sheathed with weatherboards and with red brick tarpaper siding. The interior was covered only with plasterboard; there was no evidence of any earlier wooden siding.

The upstairs consisted of four rooms in the principal block, plus another

**CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY**

room above the "sun porch" added to the northeast side.

M:16-12-17

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

*Black History*

SPECIFIC DATES

*C. 1930's*

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

*MR. STONE*

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This house stands on property that was purchased by the Ridout family soon after the Civil War. According to oral informants Lemuel Graham and Evelyn Herbert in Martinsburg, the Ridouts were Black. No members of the Ridout family have been located. The deed L/F: EBP 6/113 shows that James H. Ridout obtained this property (3.42 acres) from William Viers on February 1, 1867. The Hopkins Atlas of Montgomery County (1879) shows the name "Jas. Ridout" in Martinsburg as one of the landowners, though the location of the property is erroneously placed east of the jct. of White's Ferry Road and the Martinsburg-Dickerson Roads, instead of west. Together these records establish the Ridout family as among the earliest Black landowners in Martinsburg.

As for the house, Lemuel Graham and Evelyn Herbert recalled that it was built "before my time", (turn of the century). The presence of the wire nails in the original portion of the frame show that it was built in the 1880's at the earliest, so it was not the Ridout dwelling occupied in the 1860's and 70's. The presence of the plasterboard in the interior is puzzling. A house of this high standard for the times would have been finished inside with some type of siding, yet there is no evidence of any material except the plasterboard. Although this surveyor does not know the exact date of the use of plasterboard, I associate with the second quarter of the 20th century, not with the late 1800's or early 1900's, especially in rural Maryland. For this reason, it is possible that the house was built in the 1920's, rather than earlier.

The house possesses some unusual features in comparison to other homes of rural black families in the area. Because the house is so overgrown, it is unfortunately not possible to photograph it thoroughly.

Another interview with Evelyn Herbert has revealed that this house was first a log cabin, and it was pulled down. In the 1930's, the owner of the store on the southwest corner of Elmer School Rd. and White's Ferry Rd., a man named Stone, was hired by Charles Ridout to re-build this house, Evelyn says. Thus, the house on the site today was built in the 1930's and is the replacement of the earlier log house, which was similar to the other homes of the early Black landowners of Martinsburg.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Land Records of Montgomery County, County Courthouse, Rockville, Md.  
 Deeds: EBP 6/113; 3657/682.  
 Hopkins' 1879, Atlas of Montgomery County.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 3 acres

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

George W. McDaniel

ORGANIZATION

Sugarloaf Regional Trails

DATE

6/78

STREET & NUMBER

Box 87

TELEPHONE

926-4510

CITY OR TOWN

Dickerson

STATE

Maryland 20753

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: ~~Maryland Historical Trust  
 The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
 Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
 (301) 267-1438~~

SUGARLOAF REGIONAL TRAILS  
 Box 87, Stronghold  
 Dickerson, Md. 20753  
 (301) 926-4510



Ridout House

East gable end

M-16-12-17

Martinsburg, Md.

7/78 FWM

1-1953 #28





Ridout House

Facade: North length

M-16-12-17

Martinsburg, Md.

7/78

Gum

1-19533-#26



Ridout House

Facade: North length

M - 18-12-17

Martinsburg, Md.

7/78 GWM

1-19533 # 27